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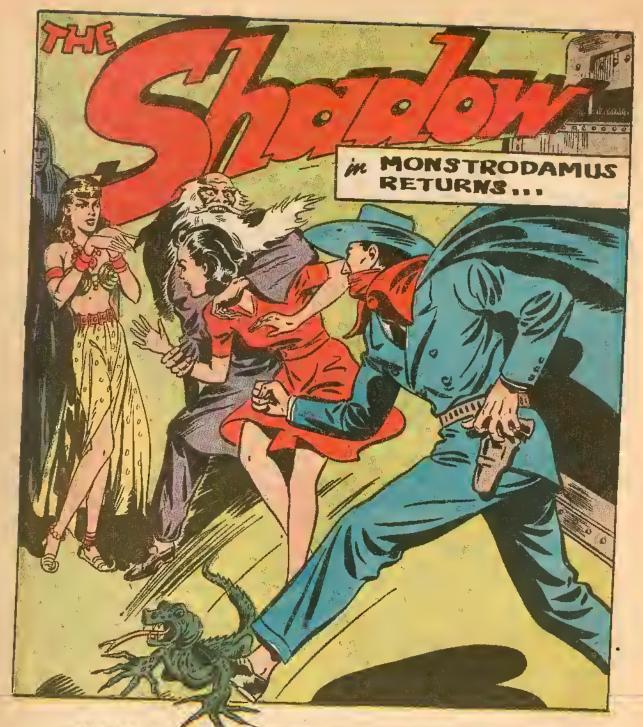
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VOL III, NO. 4; JULY, 1943

NEXT ISSUE AUGUST, 1943, ON SALE JUNE 25, 1943

SHADOW COMICS

PUBLISHED MONTHLY S1.00 PER 12-ISSUE SUBSCRIPTION

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Printed in C. L. A.

STREET & SMITH PUBLICATIONS, INC.

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YOU SHOULD KNOW

-THAT Italy printed a commemorative postage stamp showing one of the world's first flying machines. It was invented by Leonardo



da Vinci almost five hundred years ago and the drawing shown on the stamp was taken from the Da Vinel's Fising Machine plans found in the papers of the great artist and in-

ventor. Whoever tried the machine had to push wires at his feet the same way you do when riding a bicycle. It never worked properly and Leonardo was still trying to fly until the day he died.

-THAT Cape of Good Hope, now a part of the Union of South Africa, was the first country to print triangle postage stamps. Many countries since then have copied her example and issued their own triangles.

-THAT the United States commemorative stamp honoring the three hundredth year of

founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony shows an Indian standing between two pine trees holding an arrow in one hand and a bow in the other. From out of his mouth, drawn just like the cartoons in this United States Cartoon States magazine, are the words, "Come



over and help us." This is the only stamp issued by the United States which shows someone speaking, ,

-THAT Switzerland has a postage stamp that, even if you offered a hundred dollars, you couldn't get it at the post office because only bus drivers are allowed to sell it. People call it the "bus stamp," and it is supposed to have been issued to encourage bus drivers to write more letters.

-THAT Nicaragua has issued the only actual set of baseball stamps in the world. They came out in 1937, and the design, showing a batter at home plate waiting for a ball to swing at, was posed for by a great American ball player. The stamps were printed in very bright colors and look like travel postera.

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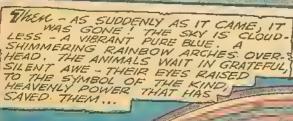






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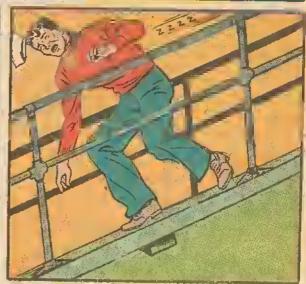
































































































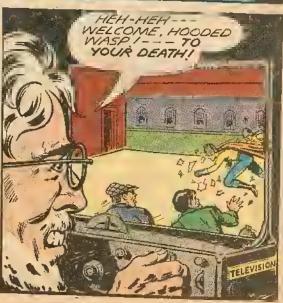






































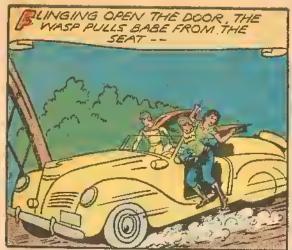






















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HOODED WASP'S HORRIBLE
ADVENTURE!



TORPEDOES ARE JUST FISH

The fog rolled up the bluff on the back of the howling nor'easter. Matt stood braced against the wind in his oilskins and listened with the practiced ear of a Banks fisherman to the faint clanking that punctuated the thunder of the surf below. It was the unmistakable sound of a heavy anchor chain running out.

Matt judged that the sounds came from the vicinity of the Lizards, a treacherous little pair of islands about a half male off the coast. The boy shuddered, whether from the cold biting through his clothes, or the picture of Lizard's Hole in a fog, with the ebb piling up rips against a nor'easter that would be more like mountains than waves. Only a stranger would ever think there was any protection from a nor'easter in Lizard's Hole.

There was a crunch of gravel on the path from the cove behind him and the bent figure of his father took form in the swirling mist.

"What is she, pop?" Matt asked.

"One of them submarine things. Came near running me down when I was out in the dory just now."

"Ours or theirs?" Matt's voice was sharp and eager.

"Theirn." His father spat it out calmly. "Ebb tide's running now. They're aground on Big Lizard already."

"Pop! We got to hole them before they get off!" Matt seized his father's arms. "Think of your old friend Cap Jenks and his Molly M. Most likely this sub is the one that sunk them!" The boy's voice was hot with the fire of youth.

"Pop, I could sneak in there quietly with our sailboat with a torpedo aboard and let 'em have it before they know what's hit 'em," continued the boy.

MacNab slowly studied his son for some moments. He said, at last, "I guess maybe you're right, son, I guess the time's come tel. do something for your country; it's always been good enough to you. You take the Heather. But I'm going with you, 'cause if I lose you and the Heather both, I don't want to be left around to think about it."

The fog had cleared some when they reached the deck of the torpedo craft, where the torpedoes were stored. The old fisherman lifted his eyes to the pale stars and sniffed. "It'll come on thick again before daybreak," he announced and then explained his plan.

Under the bos'n's curt orders the torpedoboat crew dragged one sleek metal fish out of its tube and the two fishermen had a look at it.

"She's big," decided the old man, "but there ain't much to her. How far can you shoot her?"

"We won't shoot her this time," grunted the bos'n, bending over to twist the hydrostatic setting for a surface run. "We'll just sneak up in the fog, ease her into the water from your boat, slip in with her, swim her in close enough to get her pointed straight, and let her run."

The crew swung the torpedo into the water on a little davit and Matt took it in tow with the dory. The bos'n detailed a couple of first-class torpedomen to row over to the *Heather* where, with the help of the schooner's heaviest tackles, the five of them par-buckled the big fish up the ship's low side and onto her deck. Then they sailed for Lizard's Hole.

"Listen!" hissed the bos'n. They listened. The labored snorting of Diesels settled quickly to a steady rhythmic throb. "That sub's affoat!" groaned the bos'n. "We're too late. I could never hit her underway from the water." He glowered into the fog.

Young Matt leaped to his feet and peered into the murk toward the ominous sound of engines. "Mr. Barkley, get that torpedo's nose

up on our starboard rail and block her up level athwartships with a light lashing on the tail so she'll slip over in a hurry when it's cut. I'll get that pig boat for you!"

The bos'n blinked incredulously. MacNab spoke up quietly, "What you figuring to do, Matt?"

"Sail the Heather up within sighting distance of the sub as she comes out so the bos'n can slide his torpedo off our lee rail when I've got her headed right. The sub will take us for fishermen in a fog—until it's too late. But we got to act fast!" He cocked his head to the swelling sputter of the submarine's engine.

MacNab turned calmly to the bos'n. "We can see five hundred yards," he said. "Could you hit from our rail at that?"

"Make it two hundred and I couldn't miss, even from this bucking bronco," snapped the bos'n.

The old man rammed his hands into his pockets and stared thoughtfully into the fog. "Mighty risky," he rumbled, as if thinking aloud. "Have to make an approach with nothing but the sound of engines to go on. Most likely ram the war boat and lose the Heather like I said." He swung abruptly to his son. "Think you can do it, boy?"

"You said yourself I was the best seaman on the coast," Matt said impatiently.

The submarine's engine grew louder in the mist. The second engine coughed and churned ahead with the other.

"All right," said MacNab at last. "Let's see you do it; the navy's watching."

The bos'n and his men were already levering up the torpedo and blocking it even with the low rail. Matt reached out and pulled his father down alongside him at the wheel. "Hop in the dory with the two sailors and have them pull you back to the cove," he said quickly. "The bos'n and I'll do better with more room to work in."

"Not by a— Wait a jiffy!" The old man lowered his voice and his eyes narrowed again. "By craminy, that's an idee! But wait, I'll go alone. Save time." With an expert heave he hauled up the dory and leaped lightly into it. "Cast off, you lubber, and smartly!" he barked as Matt hesitated in surprise at his father's sudden alacrity.

Matt held the straining dory painter in his hands. "Pop," he frowned, "what you thinking of?"

"Never you mind, smart-Aleck-let her gol

And good luck!" he called as the dory dipped astern into the fog. Matt could hear the creak of the oarlocks immediately as his father pulled off vigorously into the gray murk.

For an instant the boy gazed after the vanishing dory with puzzled eyes and then, as the submarine's engines grew ever louder, he turned back to his wheel. With the navy men handling his sheets, he slanted the *Heather* swiftly up to windward of the channel out of Lizard's Hole.

The great black hulk of the undersea boat loomed suddenly out of the mist just abaft the Heather's beam, not more than five hundred yards to leeward, plunging into the gray-green seas at half speed and flinging flat spray against her squat conning tower. Now was the crucial minute: to close the next three hundred yards without being challenged, cut loose the deadly fish and duck back into the curtain of fog before the submarine could suspect their innocent appearance.

With a low cry to let the sheets run, Matt fell off handily before the wind, aiming the Heather like a quivering arrow, directly for the plunging bow of the black steel monster. Immediately there was a loud and salty hail from the direction of the sub, ringing clear against the wind, "Aho-o-y, you blasted lubbers! Where am I? I'm lost in this dirty fog!"

Matt stiffened. It was his father's voice, unmistakably. A faint, answering hail, unintelligible, drifted up to his ears, its direction uncertain in the swirling mists. The Heather was closing fast—four hundred yards—three hundred. Now Matt could make out three dark figures on the submarine's bridge, all straining to leeward with their backs to the schooner as it swooped silently upon them from windward. Again his father's hail rang out, "I can't make out a blasted word you say! Speak English!"

The bos'n's shout came in a hoarse croak from the Heather's waist, "Close enough, Matt! You don't need to run 'em down. Steady her here! Easy, now—easy!"

The schooner nosed up parallel with the blind sub, less than two hundred yards off in the mist, balancing briefly, beam ends on to the sloppy seas. "Let 'er go!" barked Matt, and then, "And don't miss; the old man's just beyond!" His voice was rough and loud with concern. The snapping sails and banging

blocks made a furious racket.

A shout rang out from the submarine, a stiff arm pointing at them from the bridge.

The torpedo jerked as the lashing gave and then lunged forward into the sea from the dripping rail, the propellers spinning as the bos'n tripped the starting lever. It dived with a splash, porpoised, and charged forward through the torn sea like a mad shark.

Curt orders barked from the U-boat's bridge, drowning old MacNab's noisy diversion from beyond. Matt spun the Heather's wheel hard up, the bos'n and his men leaping to trim the sheets. The schooner buried her rail deep and clawed into the wind, seeking the safety of the fog.

Then the torpedo struck with a blast that jarred the schooner's crew from their feet and punched the taut sails with a giant's fist. The submarine disappeared in a geyser of hot sea water and hissing steam. The column collapsed in a cascade on the torn and stricken hull, leaving it listing heavily to port, its ugly nose creeping farther and farther under each successive wave.

"Aho-o-oy, Heather!" The long, clean hail brought Matt back to his senses, "Heave to,, confound ye! I'm pulling my blasted arms out!"

Matt's slow grin thawed the set muscles of his jaw, "Aho-o-oy, pop!" he answered. "Rest easy and raise a hail! We'll pick you up!" He snapped the schooner into the wind, circling toward the lusty ahoys from the dory, and steered smartly for the bobbing boat when it showed through the fog. In a minute the dory was tailing out astern again and MacNab was soberly gripping his son's hard hand on the Heather's deck.

"Well," ventured the boy uncomfortably, clearing his throat, "Old Cap Jenks can rest now, anyway."

"Yep," said MacNab, while the bos'n grinned over his shoulder, "and you can tell the navy you done something big when you go to join up tomorrow. And me"-the old man wrestled his pipe and pouch out of his pocket and leisurely packed the bowl-"me, I can get back to my fishin'. Never had no use for these fancy war boats and torpedo gimmicks, anyhow,"

Matt grinned fondly. "Shucks, pop, torpedoes are just fish. Aren't they, bos'n?"

"That's right," proclaimed the navy, "and it sure takes fishermen to deliver 'em in a fog."





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